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TO RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0921
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INFO RUEHGG/UN SECURITY COUNCIL COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RUEHBY/AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY 1643
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 006709

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E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/11/2016
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KNNP](#) [UNSC](#) [KN](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: RESPONSE TO NORTH KOREA: FRANCE ON BOARD WITH USG
DRAFT RESOLUTION

REF: A) PARIS 6696 B) OCTOBER 11 PARIS POINTS C)
STATE 168337

Classified By: Acting Political Counselor Bruce Turner, Reason 1.4 B/D

¶1. (U) In an October 10 interview on French radio, FM Douste-Blazy termed the situation with North Korea as "extremely serious," and emphasized the need for action by the UN Security Council. Toward that end, Douste-Blazy referred to the U.S.-proposed draft resolution, stating that France "wishes to see this resolution adopted as quickly as possible." He also noted that the proposed resolution included a program of sanctions on North Korea's ballistic missile and WMD programs.

¶2. (C) Further to ref A, MFA nonproliferation counselor Arnaud Mentre reiterated to us on October 11 France's strong support for the USG-proposed draft resolution. "Globally, we are in agreement with the United States," he stated. On specifics, he said France would focus its efforts in NY on strengthening the nonproliferation aspects of UNSC 1695, to include an embargo on weapons, and the need to control financial transactions with North Korea that could be used to support its WMD, missile, and illicit and/or proliferation activities. Mentre observed that France is in agreement with proposed U.S. and Japanese sanctions, adding that it will be important also to focus the discussion in New York on how best to implement these sanctions. A specific concern for France will be to ensure that draft language on prohibition of financial transactions be clear and precise in order to facilitate passage of French legislation, as appropriate. The vaguer the language, he noted, the more difficulties the GOF might encounter in getting legislation passed by the National Assembly.

¶3. (U) Separately (see also ref B), the MFA spokesperson on October 10 confirmed ongoing UNSC discussions on measures that might be taken under Chapter VII of the UN Charter. In response to press queries, the spokesperson reiterated France's support for the Non-Proliferation Treaty, as well as for the need to strengthen further UNSC 1695's provisions against financial and technology transactions. In discussing the importance of remaining open to dialogue with North Korea, the MFA spokesperson stated that North Korea likely would have to choose between a path leading to sanctions and pursuit of a diplomatic solution by returning to the Six-Party talks. Responding to a press question, he confirmed that France continued not to have diplomatic relations with North Korea.

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